

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ACDA-05 ISO-00

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R 091517Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8557

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, XG, UR, US, AO, FI

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - JANUARY 9

1. HIGHLIGHTS:

--COVERAGE OF U.S. TOPICS REVERTS TO THE NASTY TACK;

--ON DETENTE, YURI ZHUKOV SAYS THAT THE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE ARE UNDERMINING THEMSELVES AND MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE COMING TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF FURTHER PROGRESS;

--A TASS STATEMENT DENIES WESTERN PRESS CLAIMS OF SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY NEAR ANGOLA, WHILE OTHER ANGOLA ITEMS FOCUS ON THE CURRENT OAU MEETING (SEPTTEL);

-- THE COMMUNIQUE ON THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT INDICATES FINNISH ENDORSEMENT OF SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR BASKET II CONFERENCES AND RESURRECTS "TOPICALITY" OF KEKKONEN'S NORTHERN EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE PROPOSAL (SEPTTEL);

--THE MEDIA REPORTS CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH WITHOUT COMMENT, WHILE THE MILITARY NEWSPAPER DENOUNCES CHINA'S ANTI-SOVIET MILITARY TRAINING.

2. U.S. THE ROUTINE NEGATIVE TONE OF U.S. COVERAGE RESUMES WITH AN IZVESTIYA CARTOON SHOWING U.S. "RACISTS" AND A PRAVDA PHOTO OF RACIAL PROBLEMS IN KENTUCKY. PRAVDA'S CARTOON SHOWS "MONOPOLY" RIDING THE BACKS OF ARMED MERCENARIES HEADING INTO ANGOLA, AND IZVESTIYA'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT V. KOBYSH COMMENTS ON GENERAL WALTERS' ASSERTION THAT ILLEGAL CIA ACTIVITIES ONLY OCCURRED IN THE PAST BY POINTING TO MORE RECENT DISCLOSURES ABOUT ANGOLA AND ITALY. ON BILATERAL QUESTIONS, PRAVDA AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORT THAT THE SALT TALKS IN GENEVA WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 28 BUT DO NOT ALLUDE TO ANY POSTPONEMENT.

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3. DETENTE. IN THE SECOND PART OF HIS SERIES ON EUROPE AFTER HELSINKI, PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YURI ZHUKOV DISCUSSES THE "ENEMIES OF DETENTE," CITING GEORGE MEANY, FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND OTHERS, BUT SAYS THAT THEY CANNOT TURN BACK THE CLOCK. ZHUKOV AFFIRMS THAT PEOPLE IN THE WEST ARE COMING TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR FURTHER STEPS. HE CITES THE SENATE VOTE CUTTING OFF ARMS TO ANGOLA

AS AN INDICATION THAT PEOPLE FAVOR FURTHER RELAXATION.
COMMENT. ZHUKOV'S TREATMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH
UPBEAT TONE OF DETENTE COMMENTARY IN RECENT DAYS.
END COMMENT.

4. ANGOLA. A TASS STATEMENT REFUTES WESTERN PRESS
STATEMENTS ALLEGING SPECIAL SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY
NEAR THE COAST OF ANGOLA. TASS SAYS THAT THESE
STORIES ARE "MALICIOUS FABRICATIONS" WHICH ARE
CLEARLY PROVOCATIVE. IT STATES CATEGORICALLY THAT
THERE ARE NO SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS AND NO SPECIAL
OPERATIONS NEAR THE COAST, AND IT LINKS THE STORIES
TO THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE OAU AS AN ATTEMPT TO
SEEK SUPPORT FOR ANGOLA INTERVENTION BY "SOUTH
AFRICAN RACISTS AND OTHER REACTIONARY FORCES AGAINST
THE LEGAL AND SOVERIGN GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA." OTHER ANGOLA COVERAGE FOCUSES
ON THE OAU MEETING, UNDERLINING SUPPORT BY OTHER
AFRICAN LEADERS FOR THE MPLA REGIME AND THEIR
OPPOSITION TO SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION. PRAVDA'S
CORRESPONDENT IN ADDIS ABABA FOR THE MEETING REPLAYS
WITHOUT COMMENT SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORT THAT SAF
WITHDRAWAL ALREADY AGREED (SEPTTEL).

5. CHINA. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE ANNOUNCED THE DEATH
OF CHOU EN-LAI BUT HAVE OFFERED NO COMMENT THUS
FAR. THE SOVIET MILITARY NEWSPAPER KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
CARRIES A LONG COMMENTARY BY G. NIKOLAYEV ON CHINESE
MILITARY TRAINING. THE ARTICLE DENOUNCES ALLEGED
"MAOIST" EFFORTS TO INSTILL IN CHINESE SOLDIERS AN
ATTITUDE OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND
TRACES UPHEAVALS IN THE ARMY INCLUDING THE CRITICISM
OF LIN BIAO. MAO'S OBJECTIVE, SAYS NIKOLAYEV, IS
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TO MAKE THE ARMY AN INSTRUMENT FOR CARRYING OUT PEKING'S
"AGGRESSIVE, HEGEMONISTIC POLICY WHICH CONSTITUTES
A SERIOUS THREAT TO PEACE IN THE WHOLE WORLD."
MATLOCK

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